Y. THE BURIAL. MARK 15:42-47

The friends of Jesus would have been anxious to get the whole affair over with by the time the Passover started that evening (15:42-47). Jewish (and Christian) festivals begin at dusk on the previous day and carry on to dusk on the following day, so the solemn Passover Sabbath began on the Friday evening. Jesus was crucified at nine o'clock in the morning. So, if he died at three o'clock in the afternoon there would have been very little time to get the body down. The authorities would have co-operated because of Jewish sensibilities: the Holy City should not be contaminated by a ritually unclean blasphemer's decomposing body. There was just enough time to place his body in the tomb before the Sabbath began; washing and anointing the body would have to wait until first light on the Sunday morning . . .

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